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LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose, on behalf of Ambassador Ignatius C. Olisemeka, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Seven on Guinea-Bissau, the text of the final communiqué issued at the conclusion of the Second Joint Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the ECOWAS Committee of Seven on Guinea-Bissau and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, which took place at Abidjan on 15 and 16 September 1998 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Final communiqué of the Second Joint Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Seven on Guinea-Bissau and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, held at Abidjan on 15 and 16 September 1998

1. The Foreign Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Seven and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) held their second joint meeting on the situation in Guinea-Bissau in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on 15 and 16 September 1998.

2. It should be recalled that, during their first meeting held at Praia on [illegible] May, the Ministers agreed to continue discussions on the timetable for withdrawal, the establishment of an ECOWAS/CPLP observer mission, the composition of the interposition force and other issues relating to its deployment.

3. The meeting was jointly chaired by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Cape Verde, Messrs. Ismaïla C. Olisemeka and José Luis Jesus respectively.

4. The following member States were present at the meeting:

ECOWAS member States:

Burkina Faso;
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
Republic of the Gambia;
Republic of Ghana;
Republic of Guinea;
Federal Republic of Nigeria;
Republic of Senegal.

CPLP member States:

Republic of Angola;
Federative Republic of Brazil;
Republic of Cape Verde;
Republic of Mozambique;
Republic of Portugal.

5. In attendance were the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), ECOWAS and the CPLP.

6. The ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) Force Commander also attended the meeting.

7. Participating at the meeting by invitation were representatives of the Secretary-General of the OAU and the United Nations as well as the representative of the European Union.

8. Also present were representatives of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the self-proclaimed military junta.

9. The meeting took place in a frank and cordial atmosphere.

10. The Ministers considered the report of the Joint Meeting of the ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff of the Committee of Seven on Guinea-Bissau and CPLP military experts held at Abidjan from 13 to 15 September 1998.

11. The meeting consulted the parties in the conflict on the recommendations of the joint meeting of the ECOWAS Chiefs of Staff and the CPLP military experts.

12. The parties to the conflict, encouraged by the Ministers, agreed on the modalities for the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement as it relates to the deployment of an ECOWAS/CPLP observer mission in Guinea-Bissau and consequently signed an agreement to that effect.

13. The Ministers also encouraged the parties to continue their efforts at finding a speedy, peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis in their country by concluding and implementing further relevant agreements relating to the deployment of an interposition force to Guinea-Bissau and other outstanding aspects of the peace force.

14. The meeting called upon the parties to cooperate with the Observers and give them all necessary support to successfully accomplish their mission.

15. The Ministers paid glowing tribute to the Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Amara Essy, for the excellent work he had done in coordinating the work of the Committee of Seven and chairing meetings at the request of the Chairman of ECOWAS and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

16. The Ministers also congratulated the newly appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Honourable Ignatius C. Olisemeka, and pledged their individual and collective support and cooperation during his tenure as Chairman of the ECOWAS Ministerial Committee of Seven on Guinea-Bissau.

17. The ECOWAS Committee of Seven and the CPLP Contact Group expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Henri Konan Bedie, President of the Republic, and to the Government and people of Côte d'Ivoire for the kind hospitality extended to them and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the success of their meeting.

DONE at Abidjan, this 16th day of September 1998.